True tales of terror

Metro takes a look at the spookiest true-crime stories in the province's history PAGE 3

RETURN OF THE FRANCHISE

WITH THE PURCHASE OF LUCASFILM, DISNEY OFFERS NEW HOPE (OR FEAR) FOR STAR WARS FANS PAGE 8

REGIONAL metro®

Wednesday, October 31, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Two youths charged with murder in northern Saskatchewan deaths

In court. Bodies of a man and woman were found in a home after police responded to a weapons complaint

Two youths have appeared in a Saskatchewan courtroom charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of two people.

Police have not said how they died and say they will not release their names.

The investigation into the murders began Monday after police responded to a weapons complaint involving an armed person sitting in a vehicle in the 1400 block of Bishop Pascal Place in Prince Albert. The suspect was taken into custody by Prince Albert police and later turned over to the RCMP.

The second person charged was also picked up in Prince Albert on Monday.

As a result of the initial complaint, the Meadow Lake RCMP went to a rural home in the Rapid View area, approximately 26 kilometres west of Meadow Lake, and located two bodies inside.

Autopsies are being done in Saskatoon. The teens, who also cannot be identified, are set to appear in Meadow Lake court on Nov. 5.

Meadow Lake is approximately 260 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM METRO

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

People are rescued by boat in Little Ferry, N.J. on Tuesday in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Sandy, the storm that made landfall Monday, caused multiple fatalities, halted mass transit and cut power to more than six million homes and businesses. See stories on pages 4 and 6. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keeping kids on the right path

The 11 and Under Initiative looks to curb youth crime by linking different community stakeholders PAGE 2

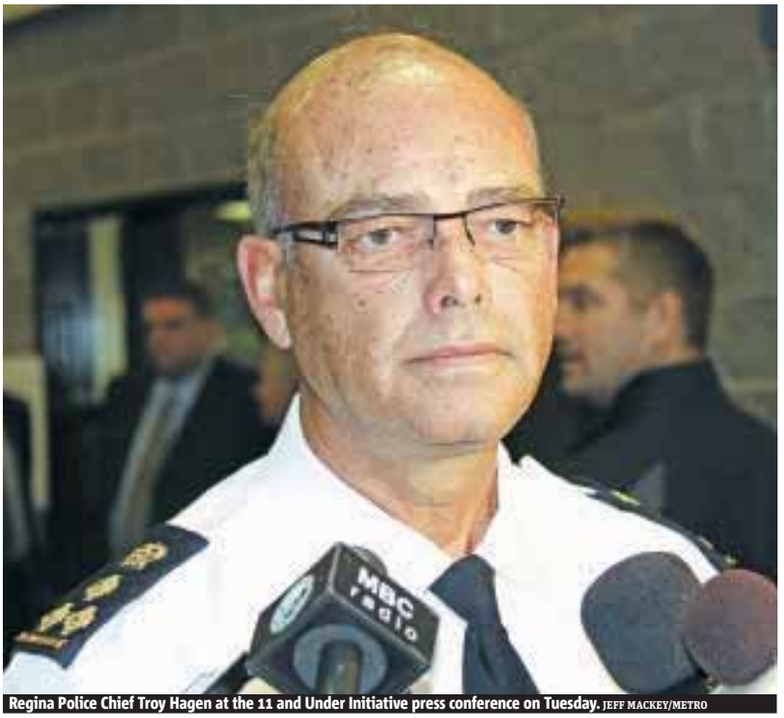
Golf with the greats

The Jamaican Open brings amateurs and pros together for some laid-back tee-off time PAGE 10

Jonas the Giant

Seven-foot Lithuanian b-ball player Jonas Valanciunas keeps his cool before his regular-season NBA debut PAGE 12

Regina police target kids in community initiative



Regina Police Chief Troy Hagen at the 11 and Under Initiative press conference on Tuesday. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

11 and Under Initiative. The RPS, local school boards and the province are collaborating to curb youth crime

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

For about a year now the Regina Police Service has been working with local school boards and social workers in a program named the 11 and Under Initiative.

"The majority of the children we are dealing with are in the nine, 10 and 11 (age) range," said police Chief Troy Hagen.

The initiative targets children with a tendency to engage in unhealthy behaviour and it aims to address their challenges in an attempt to optimize their health, safety and development.

Children who engage in behaviour like painting graffiti, bullying or starting fires could be referred to the program by teachers, police officers or social workers.

The initiative links different community stakeholders who would normally deal with a child's support case.

"The key to maximizing the resources in a community is by working together," said Hagen.

The program was inspired by a similar initiative run by the Ottawa Police Service, and other Saskatchewan cities are looking to launch similar initiatives.

"What they are doing here in Regina so far is fantastic, the outcome is fantastic and we have to build on it," said June Draude, Saskatchewan minister of social services. "Yorkton is working on a similar initiative, North Battleford is working on a similar initiative and La Ronge is looking at it as well."

Draude is optimistic the program will return favorable results.

"When we see crimes reducing and school attendance increasing, when we see kids coming to school with food in their bellies and smiles on their faces, that is success."

RCMP, SGI tell drivers to slow down

As road conditions worsen with winter weather, both the RCMP and SGI are encouraging drivers to slow down while travelling the province's highways.

To date, 142 people have been killed on Saskatchewan's rural roads and highways, and Cpl. Rob King, media relations with the RCMP, said the most important part of safe winter driving is to slow down and be prepared.

"Don't rush — if road conditions are not the greatest, you have to slow down.… The majority of roads and the majority of our road conditions, if you just slow down, you can travel them," said King.

While hundreds of factors could contribute to a highway crash, King notes that proper winter preparation is key.

"It's making sure your vehicle is prepared, having good winter tires and driving for the conditions that you're in," said King.

Rebecca Schulz, manager of media relations with SGI, echoed King, adding they try to remind drivers that posted speed limits are for ideal conditions.

"If you're driving down the highway and there is a lot of snow, or roads are really icy, definitely slow down and give yourself some extra time to get to your destination," she said.

Schulz also explained if forecasts are for winter storms or blizzards, motorists should avoid travel if possible.

Kelly Brossart, a spokeswoman for Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society Air Ambulance, said the non-profit rescue organization sees higher traffic over the warmer months, but noted pilots have been trained to respond to accidents in all conditions. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

Both the RCMP and SGI are advising drivers to slow down on the province's highways as road conditions worsen with winter. DARYL_MITCHELL/FLICKR

Highway 33

Crash leaves two dead

A head-on crash between a semi-truck and a pickup took the lives of two people near Sedley, Sask., Tuesday morning. RCMP believe the pickup was heading north and attempted to pass another vehicle when it collided with a southbound truck. Two men died at the scene. Two passengers of the pickup and the driver of the semi were taken to hospital. Fog was heavy but it has not been determined if it was a factor. METRO

Sales comparison

Private liquor stores cost more: Report

A new report claims private liquor stores in Western Canada have higher prices than publicly-owned stores, while also pouring less revenue into government coffers.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the Parkland Institute released a report Tuesday and suggested it would be foolhardy for Saskatchewan to follow Alberta or B.C.'s lead to privatize liquor stores. "A common lure behind liquor privatization is a promise of cheaper alcohol," report co-author David Campanella said at a news conference. "Our research, as well as other studies, found this to be a false promise." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leadership race

NDP candidates dodge political mud

Candidates in the Saskatchewan NDP leadership race say a Saskatchewan Party ad attempting to link them to comments by federal NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair won't work and may backfire.

The ad relates to comments Mulcair made earlier this year linking the booming energy sector and raw bitumen exports to a sharp increase in the Canadian dollar and a decline in Eastern Canada's manufacturing sector. SaskParty cabinet minister Bill Boyd says people in the province need to know where the NDP leadership candidates stand on Mulcair's statement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Juno Week

Event venues announced

Details on the 42nd Juno awards being held in Regina in 2013 were released Tuesday. Venues will include The Brandt Centre, RCMP Academy, Moose Jaw's Mosaic Place, The Cornwall Centre and the Credit Union Eventplex. METRO

7 Sask. horror stories

In the spirit of Halloween, Metro has compiled seven of the scariest true crime stories in the province of Saskatchewan.

MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

1 The child serial killer

Kidnapping, strangling and killing four children, David Threinen, 27, terrorized Saskatoon in the mid-1970's. Upon the discovery of the first two bodies — then police chief, James Kettle, told reporters of the scene where the bodies were found, "This has to be the most horrendous, vicious thing I've seen in my time."

CONTRIBUTED

2 The murder of Alexandra Wiwcharuk

Alexandra Wiwcharuk was murdered on May 18, 1962. City of Saskatoon archivist, Jeffrey O'Brien explained she was beaten unconscious and buried alive on the riverbank. Wiwcharuk's body was discovered by children who spotted a hand sticking out of the riverbank by the Canadian Pacific Railway train bridge, the case remains unsolved.

CONTRIBUTED

3 Sutherland's the woman in the well

In June 2006, crews working in the parking lot of a Mac's Convenience store at the corner of 108th St. and Central Ave. discovered an old well. At the bottom of the well was a barrel containing the body of a woman who was killed sometime between 1913 and 1916. It was later revealed that the woman was partially dismembered in order to fit her in the barrel — the case remains unsolved.

Five tips for a safer Halloween

1. Motorists should travel slowly through residential areas.

2. Parents should ensure their child's costume is visible.

3. Younger children should be accompanied by a parent, while older children should trick-or-treat in groups.

4. Know your child's trick-or-treating route and set up a time they'll be home.

5. Avoid homemade treats.

4 Gail Miller murder

On Jan. 31 1969, Gail Miller left home to catch her bus at roughly 6:45 a.m. when she was sexually assaulted and murdered. Police convict David Milgaard after receiving reports of suspicious behavior in March of the same year, but later conclude that he's innocent and that Larry Fisher, a man with a history of sexual assault had committed the crime.

LORNE MCCLINTON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

7 The murder of JoAnn Wilson

JoAnn Wilson, the ex-wife of former Saskatchewan politician Colin Thatcher, was found beaten and shot in her Regina home which was located across from the entrance of the provincial legislature. Wilson was no stranger to the media, as her divorce from Thatcher was highly publicized, as was the following custody battle. Thatcher was convicted of first-degree murder in 1984.

6 The Benito Bandits

In 1935, Benito Town Constable, William Wainwright and RCMP Constable John Shaw were found dead. Three men, John Kalmakoff, Joseph Posnikoff and Peter Woiken, were wanted for the crime. When police approached their car at a roadblock near Banff National Park, the men opened fire on RCMP officers, killing two. Police later trapped the men after a pursuit on foot, but none would escape as Posnikoff was dead and the other two were mortally wounded.

ALYSSA MCDONALD/FOR METRO

5 The murder of Pamela George

Pamela George was found dead on Apr. 18, 1995. George was an aboriginal woman working as a prostitute in Regina when she was raped and violently beaten to death on a gravel road outside the city. Two men, Steven Kummerfield and Alex Ternowetsky were convicted of manslaughter. Archives of the Saskatchewan Indian show members of the aboriginal community were not pleased with the verdict as many thought the two men should have been convicted of first-degree murder.

‘It is a devastating sight right now’

Brian Hajeski, 41, reacts as he looks at debris of a home that washed up onto the Mantoloking Bridge on Tuesday, the morning after Superstorm Sandy rolled through Mantoloking, N.J. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tough road ahead. Sandy will end up causing about $20B in property damage and $10B-$30B more in lost business: Global Insight

The most destructive storm in decades to hit the most densely populated U.S. region cut off modern communication and left millions without power Tuesday, as thousands who fled their waterlogged homes wondered when — if — life would return to normal.

A weakening Sandy, the hurricane turned fearsome superstorm, killed at least 50 people, many hit by falling trees, and still wasn’t finished. It inched inland across Pennsylvania, ready to bank toward western New York state to dump more of its water and likely cause more havoc Tuesday night.

“Nature,” said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, assessing the damage to his city, “is an awful lot more powerful than we are.”

More than 8.2 million households were without power in 17 states as far west as Michigan.

One of the most dramatic tales came from lower Manhattan, where a failed backup generator forced New York University’s Tisch Hospital to relocate more than 200 patients, including 20 babies from neonatal intensive care. Dozens of ambulances lined up in the rainy night and the tiny patients were gingerly moved out, some attached to battery-powered respirators as gusts of wind blew their blankets.

What damage could be seen on the coastline Tuesday was, in some locations, staggering. “Unthinkable,” New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said of what unfolded along the Jersey Shore, where houses were swept from their foundations and amusement park rides were washed into the ocean.

“It is beyond anything I thought I’d ever see. It is a devastating sight right now.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is climate change to blame?

For more than a dozen years, climate scientists have been warning about the risk for big storms and serious flooding in New York.

- But they say it’s unfair to blame climate change for Sandy and its destruction.
- “The ingredients of this storm seem a little bit cooked by climate change, but the overall storm is difficult to attribute to global warming,” Canada’s University of Victoria climate scientist Andrew Weaver said.

Worst is over in Ontario. Toronto bears brunt of damage here in Canada

Superstorm Sandy has left tens of thousands of people without power in Ontario and Quebec, though experts say the worst appears to be over.

Environment Canada says the massive weather system dwindled overnight and should continue to weaken, but notes the provinces are still in for some wet, windy weather.

In Ontario, Toronto was hardest hit as 60,000 customers were without electricity Tuesday morning leading to the closure of more than a dozen schools for the day.

A felled tree crushed a house in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

So not PC. Loblaw label accused of ‘tasteless’ storm-related tweet

President’s Choice has apologized for an “insensitive” tweet about Hurricane Sandy that has left many Canadians with a bad taste.

The private label of Loblaw posted Tuesday: “What’s scarier? Hurricane #Sandy or a beverage with marshmallow eyeballs?” It linked to a recipe for “marshmallow bloodshot eyeballs,” which suggests cutting marshmallows in half and putting a grape or blueberry in the middle.

The account was flooded with replies criticizing the tweet as “awful” and “tasteless” for making light of a storm that killed more than 100 people across North America and the Caribbean, including a woman in Toronto.

President’s Choice tweeted again about an hour later to say it was sorry.

“We sincerely apologize for the insensitive tweet,” the company wrote. “We understand the seriousness of the storm and didn’t intend to make light of it.” THE CANADIAN PRESS

The morning after

1 N.Y.C. bright lights. Snuffed out

A darkened Manhattan is viewed Tuesday after much of the city lost electricity. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

2 Definitely post-tropical. In W.Va

Joe Bays shovels snow in front of his home in Beckley, W.Va. The storm dumped up to 48 centimetres of snow in West Virginia. JON C. HANCOCK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Six feet under. Not deep enough

A casket floated out of the grave in a cemetery in Crisfield, Md. ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 City’s driving force. Flooded

Cars float in a flooded subterranean basement in the financial district of New York City. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

5 Community sees. Incredible loss

Robert Connolly, left, embraces his wife Laura as they survey the remains of the home owned by her parents that burned to the ground in the Breezy Point section of New York. More than 50 homes were destroyed in the fire that swept through the oceanfront community during the storm. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blast from the past: Dud bomb shuts airport

Jitters in Japan.
All 92 flights in and out of Sendai are cancelled after wartime relic is unearthed on runway

A major airport in northern Japan was closed Tuesday after construction workers found an unexploded bomb believed to be from the Second World War.

All 92 flights in and out of Sendai airport were cancelled after the 250-kilogram bomb was uncovered during construction near a runway.

The bomb was identified as American-made and is believed to be a dud from the war.

It appeared to have a working detonator, and a military bomb squad was considering whether to move the bomb or explode it on the spot. Sandbags were piled up around the bomb. Officials said nearby homes might be evacuated.

Sendai airport, a regional hub for travel into northern Japan, was closed for months due to severe damage from last year's tsunami. It is still undergoing reconstruction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bulletin board at Sendai airport in Japan tells the story — all flights cancelled. The reason: An unexploded wartime bomb.
KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly rain

The United States heavily bombed Japanese cities during the Second World War and finding unexploded bombs is not unusual, even 67 years after Japan's surrender.

- **Tokyo tally.** Dozens of duds are uncovered in Tokyo every year.

French politicians must take lessons on sexism

Politicians in France — which produced feminist icons such as Joan of Arc and Simone de Beauvoir — are going back to school.

They'll study … sexism.

French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault ordered the training after a series of gaffes by his ministers.

All of France's 38 ministers have signed up or are in the process of registering.

In the interest of gender equality, the female ministers are going too.

Organizer Caroline de Haas says 80 per cent of politicians interviewed on French TV and radio broadcasts are men. She wants to fight against the "illusion" that France "has almost achieved equality."

Behind Ayrault's order are a series of missteps that sparked outrage.

There were catcalls in the French Parliament just because a female government minister wore a floral dress.

And this month, the agriculture minister — in an interview on promoting gender equality — suggested that women couldn't get their heads around technical jobs.

"It's good (the lessons are) happening," said Nicolette Kost, 33, in central Paris.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sweden's role

The anti-sexism training initiative comes — rather unsurprisingly — from Sweden.

- **Impressive.** Sweden tops the Global Gender Gap report list on female-male equality.
- **Unimpressive.** France is trailing at 48th place on the equality list.

Egypt orders probe

Sex assaults mar Muslim holiday

Egypt has declared war on sexual harassment.

President Mohammed Morsi has ordered his interior minister to investigate a rash of assaults during a just-ended Muslim holiday.

Morsi's government reported 735 police complaints about sexual harassment over the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday.

Morsi stressed the need to fight "all phenomena of moral chaos and abuses, especially harassment in Egyptian streets," spokesperson Yasser Ali said.

Tahrir Square, the centre of last year's uprising, has been the scene of a number of assaults against women — both protesters and journalists — in the aftermath of the revolution.

This month, a correspondent for France 24 TV was "savagely attacked" near Tahrir after being seized by a crowd.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Time for change?

Rights activists have faulted President Mohammed Morsi's Islamist government for failing to take action against a wave of sexual assaults.

- **Make it a crime.** Earlier this month, about 200 activists gathered outside the presidential palace chanting slogans against the government, and pressing for a law to criminalize harassment.

Calgary

TransCanada plants survive Sandy's wrath

TransCanada says its power generating operations in the northeastern U.S. made it through Superstorm Sandy in good shape. The firm's president of energy and oil pipelines says the Ravenswood Power Plant in New York City churned out electricity throughout Monday night and Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa

Federal spending cuts shutter culture organization

A cultural group founded by artists including Group of Seven member Lawren Harris is suspending operations after 67 years, a victim of federal spending cuts. The Canadian Conference of the Arts, the largest national alliance of the arts, culture and heritage sector, says it will start winding down its work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maps app

Apple asked iPhone software exec to resign

The head of Apple's iPhone software development was asked to resign after he refused to sign a letter apologizing for the flaws in Apple's mapping application, according to a published report.

The Wall Street Journal says Scott Forstall's refusal was the latest clash between him and other executives, and it led to the company's announcement Monday that he is stepping down and leaving the company next year. Forstall's unit was responsible for the Maps application, which was unfavourably compared to the Google Maps app it replaced. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scott Forstall
AP FILE

Canada-China deal

Petition calls for feds to reject investment treaty

Opposition parties and activists are ramping up their campaign against the Canada-China investment deal in the hopes of stalling the agreement. Activist groups are handing MPs a petition with more than 60,000 signatures calling on the federal government to reject the investment treaty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.07¢ (+0.15¢)

TSX 12,377.05 (+64.30)

OIL $85.68 US (+$0.14)

GOLD $1,712.10 US (+$3.40)

Natural gas: $3.70 (-10 ¢)
Dow Jones: Closed due to storm

Not the blogs! Flooding takes out HuffPo

Data centres down. Superstorm Sandy shuts Internet facilities in downtown Manhattan, affecting popular sites

Flooded data centres in downtown Manhattan brought down Gawker, Huffington Post and many popular New York-based blogs Tuesday while phone and cable companies were scrambling to assess damage and restore service in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

News and gossip site Gawker.com was still down in the afternoon, but Huffington Post was back online. Their webhost, Datagram Inc. said power was out, and flooding in their basement was preventing their backup generators from pumping fuel. Internet connectivity from three providers was also down.

Verizon Communications Inc., the biggest phone company in the region, said some facilities in downtown Manhattan are flooded, shutting down phone and Internet service.

Renesys Corp., which monitors the pathways of the Internet, said the storm caused major outages in New Jersey and New York. The city is a major transit point for international telecommunications traffic, and the firm said carriers were scrambling to route traffic around it.

Cablevision Systems Corp., which serves parts of Long Island, New York City and New Jersey, says it experienced widespread outages due to the loss of power. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stock exchange closed for second day

The streets surrounding the New York Stock Exchange are deserted Tuesday as financial markets remained closed for the second day due to Hurricane Sandy. Trading has rarely stopped for weather. A blizzard led to a late start and an early close on Jan. 8, 1996, according to the exchange's parent company, NYSE Euronext. The NYSE also shut down on Sept. 27, 1985 for Hurricane Gloria. The exchange is expected to reopen Wednesday for regular trading. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France. 160% beer tax increase proves hard to swallow for EU brewers

France, the land of wine, is planning heavy taxes on beer, and that is not going down well with brewers — even in other nations.

President Francois Hollande is pushing through legislation to increase taxes on beer by 160 per cent to help fund struggling social programs as France tries to contain a budget deficit hit hard by the economic crisis.

The tax would affect local brews and the 30 per cent of imported beer the French drink.

The change means the price of a beer will increase by about 20 per cent in bars and supermarkets, said Jacqueline Lariven, spokeswoman for the French brewer's federation Brasseurs de France.

The Brewers of Europe trade group called the measure a "kick in the teeth" on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New legislation in France would raise taxes on beer to help fund social programs. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Beef recall. U.S. cattle producers' group wants sale of plant blocked

Some American cattle producers want the U.S. government to block the possible sale of a troubled Alberta company's beef operations.

The Ranchers-Cattlemen's Action Legal Fund says it is concerned about JBS USA's option to purchase XL Foods Inc. plant in Brooks, Alta., two U.S. slaughtering plants and other properties.

Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF, has written a letter to the U.S. Justice Department saying if the deal goes through it would make JBS USA a dominant player in the beef industry.

"It is a significant acquisition and it would catapult JBS perhaps into being the largest beef packer in the United States if the acquisition were to go through," Bullard said Tuesday from Billings, Mont.

"We will do everything within our power and means to block this merger."

In the letter, Bullard asks the department to investigate how the deal would affect U.S. cattle producers and consumers and to block it if it would lead to further consolidation of the beef market. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We will do everything within our power and means to block this merger."

Bill Bullard, CEO of the The Ranchers-Cattlemen's Action Legal Fund

London. Trader who lost $2.3B says managers told him to 'push boundaries'

A former UBS trader accused of losing $2.3 billion US in reckless deals told a jury Tuesday that he lost control amid constant pressure from his managers to make profits.

Kweku Adoboli, 32, testified to a London court that managers at the bank were fully aware of what he was doing and pressured him to "push the boundaries" when he worked at the Swiss bank.

"We were told you wouldn't know where the limit of the boundary was until you got a slap on the back of the wrist," he told the Southwark Crown Court. "We found that boundary, we found the edge, we fell off and I got arrested."

The former trader denies two counts of fraud and four counts of false accounting between October 2008 and September 2011.

Adoboli said he felt pressured to take a more bullish approach to trading when a fellow trader mocked his conservative stance in an email that was circulated within the company. He said he did not feel he had full control of the trades under the pressure. "I absolutely lost control. I was no longer in control of the decisions around the trades we were doing," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

$12B

At one point, Kweku Adoboli risked losing the bank $12 billion US, prosecutors say.

WHAT'S GIVING YOU GOOSEBUMPS THIS HALLOWEEN?

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Happy Halloween, the scariest day of the year. And if you think it's all fake blood, makeup and masks, this list of the seven scariest things happening right now will wipe that silly zombie grin off your face.

1 **Mother nature gone wild.** Earthquakes and tsunamis on the West Coast; Perfect Storm Sandy on the East Coast. Why has Gaia gone gaga? Is it something we did?

2 **Death by Mitt-adventure.** Mitt Romney must figure he's suffering from some Halloween curse. At the very moment it looks as if his U.S. presidential campaign is poised to take off, he is foiled by an Act of God that elevates Barack Obama, his opponent. It doesn't help that he was caught on camera during the Republican primary saying it was "immoral" to borrow money for disaster relief. It's bad enough that the New York Times has endorsed Obama, but God? Geez, Louise.

3 **...and 39 minutes later.** Not sure if it was immoral or not, but the U.S. response to the 7.7-magnitude earthquake off Haida Gwaii Saturday night was 39 minutes faster than the B.C. government's. The quake happened at 8:04 p.m.; the U.S. sent out a tsunami warning at 8:16. The B.C. government followed with a tsunami tweet at 8:55, long after everyone should have gone to higher ground. B.C. Premier Christy Clark was happy with her province's response. Nobody died, she said cheerfully. This time.

4 **Equal time for the undead.** Tony Bennett makes another album of duets with people who can still sing, play instruments and stand upright. For a man who recorded his first album in 1952, a hearty pat on the back … and two words of advice: Enough, already.

5 **Speaking of creepy.** Then there's Anne Coulter. If Tony Bennett should step aside for Michael Bublé or something, Anne Coulter should be subject to a restraining order. The scariest blond on the block calls the president of the United States a "retard" in her outside voice and refuses to take it back or apologize, no matter how many Special Olympians she has offended.

6 **Lost in cyberspace.** The head of Apple's iPhone software development loses his head over the iPhone 5 Maps application that directs people into the Twilight Zone more often than Google Maps, which it unwisely replaces. Almost simultaneously (or at least posthumously) the 260-foot yacht of deceased Apple founder Steve Jobs is launched. I hope it's using Google Maps to navigate.

7 **Most Haunted — NOT!** The annual list of most haunted places in Canada is doing the rounds again this year, and the usual suspects — the Banff Springs Hotel, Fort Henry in Kingston, Ont. and Gastown's Blood Alley — are on the list. But Canada's Scariest Place didn't even make the list: Where's Toronto City Hall? Rob Ford is comin' to git ya.

Hopefully Mitt Romney isn't compromising his moral beliefs here, where he helps at a storm relief event in Kettering, Ohio, on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Endangered moth larva a scary sight

LUI WEBER/REX FEATURES

Animal behaviour

Larva of moth is fit for Halloween

If prizes for Halloween costumes were handed out in the natural world, this scary skull-faced creepy-crawly would surely win.

This extraordinary specimen is the larva of the pink underwing moth (Phyllodes imperialis), an endangered species only found in the Australian rainforest. METRO

Photographer's viewpoint

"Sadly this moth is very rare. I only know of a single adult seen last year, so I do not have photographs of the adult yet. This southern subspecies is listed as nationally endangered in Australia."

Botanist/ecologist and photographer Lui Weber explains

Habitat

Photographer keeps finding more

All but one of the habitat locations are in south-eastern Queensland, but Lui says more discoveries are being made.

"It was only known to breed in a single location in upland rainforest. But this year I have discovered another three locations and a colleague has located one additional site, making five locations in total," Weber says. METRO

Conservation efforts

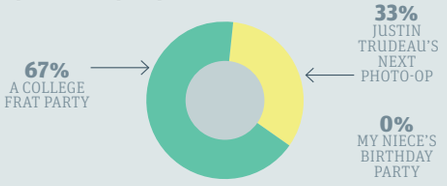
Moth currently looking for a home

The Australian government has placed the caterpillar on its endangered list. "Potential breeding habitat is restricted to areas where the caterpillar's food plant, a native rainforest vine, occurs in subtropical rainforest," the government said. "Adult pink underwing moths require the darkness supplied by the vine to breed." METRO

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

After appearing in an Ottawa couple's wedding photos, what event should Stephen Harper photobomb next?



Twitter

@amandaleemanz: Rule #2 when eating #halloween #candy. Wear tight jeans, you will definitely eat less.

@andrews_ryan: #Junoawards are in #YQR next year. Have to wonder who will do a duet with @justinbieber. Anne Murray, Randy Bachman, Gordon Lightfoot, Snow

@SawyerSwan: I hear there is a petition going around on the stadium to make council have a referendum. Anyone know how I can get my name on it? #yqr

@jayfish82: Went for my #tattoo consultation today. Can't wait! Although, I have to wait because he was booked up until March! #BlackSeaTattoos #yqr

@ChrisSpencer71: Given that #yqr is virtually safe from all natural and man-made disasters we should be the disaster recovery capital of North America.

metro

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Walt Disney Company President and CEO Bob Iger, left, Star Wars creator George Lucas and actor Anthony Daniels attend the grand opening ceremonies for Star Tours — The Adventures Continue at Disney's Hollywood Studios theme park. DAVID ROARK/GETTY IMAGES

LucasFilm flies into new era

Walt Disney. The Star Wars franchise, built from the ground up by George Lucas, sold for death-star-size sum of $4.05 billion

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The Walt Disney Company has purchased LucasFilm — which was behind the colossal Star Wars franchise — for $4.05 billion, the company announced Tuesday.

In addition, Disney announced that a new Star Wars film — rumoured to be Episode 7, which would follow Return of the Jedi chronologically — will be released in 2015.

That film will be just the beginning, as a Disney insider tells Metro that the new film "will be followed by Episodes 8 and 9, and our long term plan is to release a new Star Wars feature film every two to three years."

He added that the company believes "there's substantial pent-up demand" for more Star Wars films.

"For the past 35 years, one of my greatest pleasures has been to see Star Wars passed from one generation to the next," franchise creator George Lucas said in a statement. "It's now time for me to pass Star Wars on to a new generation of filmmakers."

LucasFilm co-chair Kathleen Kennedy will become president of LucasFilm, while Lucas will serve as a creative consultant for any new films. Disney purchased Marvel Entertainment three years ago for an almost identical sum.

Celeb tweets

Here is what some of the celebrity fans are saying about the switch.

- **Patton Oswalt (@pattonoswalt).** Not saying Twitter's in a nerd frenzy about the Disney/Lucasfilm STAR WARS VII news, but I tried to post earlier & got my arm ripped off.
- **Paul Scheer (@paulscheer).** I just got so excited when I heard they were making a Star Wars VII then I remembered the last three.
- **Harry Knowles (@headgeek666).** Busy running a mini-army to get ready for Halloween. But, this STAR WARS/LUCASFILM/DISNEY thing — it's what I as a fan have dreamt of. YES!
- **Han Solo (@hansolo).** I'm mostly just excited for Star Wars theme parks.

The blood-splattered Great White North

Thrills and chills. The Canadian horror genre has a healthy collection of classics that have influenced the U.S. industry

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

There's plenty to be afraid of in Canada — and no, I don't mean Quebec's mythical werewolf, the loup-garou or Dalton McGuinty's proroguing of the legislature.

We may be known as a mild mannered people, but put us in front of a camera and all of a sudden we turn into creepy Canucks.

The Great White North has a blood splattered cinematic tradition, dating back to The Mask, the first Canadian film widely distributed in the United States.

A low budget 3D thriller about an archaeologist who believes he is cursed by a mask that causes him to have weird nightmares and even murder people, the movie was a cheapie knocked out to cash in on the 3D craze started by movies like House of Wax.

Although it missed that movement by a few years, it may have inadvertently started a new trend. Since the release of The Mask, which coupled tried-and-true 3D with experimental electronic music to heighten its spooky effect, Canadian filmmakers have been scaring the toques off their countrymen and women.

Where would Canadian horror movies be without Valentine's Day? In 1981, My Bloody Valentine, a creepy little slasher flick shot in Cape Breton, ran afoul of the ratings board but has since gone on to become a cult classic.

In 2008, a new type of terror reared its ugly head on the day Hallmark created. In Bruce MacDonald's Pontypool, the townsfolk of a small Ontario town are infected by a deadly virus on Valentine's Day — A God bug that turns them into flesh-eating zombies. Not even Cupid with a quiver full of arrows can keep this town safe.

Jack Brooks: Monster Slayer, an Ottawa-shot chiller, has cult hit written all over it. Breathing the same fetid air as genre classics Dead Alive and Demons, it has all the earmarks of a midnight movie in the making — humour, a tormented anti-hero, crazy creatures, gallons of guts and goo crowned by an over-the-top performance from horror legend Robert "Freddy Krueger" Englund.

No look at Can Con chills would be complete without at least one David Cronenberg movie. The Brood stars Oliver Reed, Samantha Eggar and Black Christmas (another great Canadian horror) star Art Hindle in a story about a brood of mutant children. Writer Ken Hanke called it one of the director's most "unsettling" films, which is really saying something if you've seen Rabid, Shivers or Videodrome.

Olivia Hussey starred in Black Christmas. HANDOUT

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell

Secretive couple's wedding may have flown under radar

Several gossip sites were predicting that Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell were set to get married later this week, but it seems the secretive couple have already taken care of that, according to the Daily Mail.

The pair was spotted in line at LAX sporting matching gold wedding bands — with Wood carrying a bag from lingerie boutique Kiki De Montparnasse, which would suggest they're off on some honeymoon-related activities.

Earlier this month, Wood and Bell were spotted at the Beverly Hills City marriage license office.

Russell Brand

Man sues Russell Brand over reported hit-and-run

An old vehicular mishap is apparently coming back to haunt Russell Brand, as a Los Angeles man is now suing the comedian for reportedly hitting him with his car and fleeing the scene back in January, according to TMZ.

The man, Victor Sneed, claims Brand was driving "negligently" at the time, and he's suing for $25,000 to cover hospital bills and lost wages from the alleged incident.

The Word

Lance Bass not bothered over Timberlake wedding snub

Lance Bass doesn't harbor any hard feelings toward Justin Timberlake for not getting invited to Timberlake's recent lavish wedding in Italy.

"No one was invited to Justin's wedding. None of *NSYNC were invited," Bass tells Hollyscoop. "They had a small group of people. We did an engagement party for him, but nothing since then."

Bass must not have read the reports from Us Weekly last week that *NSYNC members JC Chasez and Chris Kirkpatrick did in fact score invites.

But Bass and Timberlake seem to agree on one thing: "I highly doubt that we will ever have a reunion," Bass says.

"I mean, never say never. But it won't be any time soon."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Theron, Hardy butting heads on set

Tensions are reportedly running high on the set of the Mad Max remake — and it's all due to Tom Hardy's method acting, which is driving co-star Charlize Theron crazy, according to Radar Online.

"Charlize and Tom are just not getting on together," a source says.

"In between takes Tom likes to stay in character and is constantly talking to himself and mumbling things. Charlize has tried to talk to him during breaks in filming, but he shuts himself off from the rest of the cast."

Charlize Theron

The source adds that Theron thinks Harding is "a weirdo."

Joe Simpson

Simpson busted after wife finds photo of young male model

Joe Simpson's alleged affair with a 21-year-old male model apparently only came to light when his wife, Tina Simpson, discovered some photos of the young man, Bryce Chandler Hill, in her home and confronted her husband, according to Radar Online.

"Joe got busted after Tina found some modeling pictures of Bryce in her home," a source says. "They were taken in and around the house, and she was suspicious because she didn't have a clue who the boy was."

After finding photos of Joe and Bryce together, Tina decided to confront Joe, who was on a trip to New York at the time — so that's just where she went, according to the website.

"When she got there, she called him down to the lobby and they thrashed it out," the source says.

"It was there and then that Joe confessed he was having a gay affair with Bryce, who had left the hotel just days earlier, and Tina demanded a divorce."

Twitter

@Joan_Rivers
Thinking of everyone in NY and on the east coast. Stay safe! I'm stuck in LA and unable to appear live on @QVC. This truly NEVER happens...

@AlbertBrooks
The news seems so happy when the storm is worse and sad when it isn't.

@lindsaylohan
Do it

@SteveMartinToGo
I hearby resign from public life. Okay, I'm back!

Half Moon Golf Club is located just beyond the craggy coastline of Montego Bay. HANDOUT

The sun is shining — the golf course is sweet

Tee time. The Jamaican Open offers a laid-back chance for amateurs to hit the links with the pros

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

A favourite stop of royalty and high society, Montego Bay's posh Half Moon, A Rock Resort, hosts both amateurs and pros in a prestigious and fun annual championship dating from 1953.

Teeing off under the swaying palms alongside Jim Thorpe, Olin Browne, Russ Cochrane and other golf stars in the Jamaica Open is a fantasy come true for amateur golfers.

Just as much fun is the beachside après-golf parties with new celebrity friends at the resort, which is the host and sponsor of the national championship.

Played Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, the tourney is open to both professionals and amateurs who carry a maximum handicap of 5.0.

Far more democratic is the one-day pro-am preceding the main event, which accepts entries from teams of three golfers of varying abilities (provided each golfer carries an official handicap) for the entry fee of $600 (all prices in U.S. dollars).

Perhaps as big a draw as the Jamaica Open's purse of $85,000 is the opportunity for golfers to luxuriate for a few days at a Caribbean resort whose guest list has included the Queen and John and Jacqueline Kennedy, who enjoyed a month-long vacation here just prior to his inauguration as U.S. president in 1961.

Half Moon takes its name from the property's famous crescent-shaped beach of pure white sand, which in 1954 inspired investors to turn an abandoned sugar plantation into one of the world's elite resorts.

Located near bustling Montego Bay on Jamaica's northwest coast, Half Moon, which has been lavishly renovated over the past decade, sprawls across 400 acres of some of the most dramatically beautiful terrain in the Caribbean.

Accommodations include rooms and suites, as well as 33 elegantly accessorized four-to-seven-bedroom private villas, each with a pool and full-time staff.

Furnished throughout with Queen-Anne-inspired pieces and vibrant Jamaican paintings, Half Moon retains the feel of a traditional island plantation, yet with all the modern amenities.

There are 54 swimming pools, 13 floodlit tennis courts, the award-winning Fern Tree spa, one of the Caribbean's best-equipped equestrian centres and a protected lagoon where guests can swim with Reggae and Toni, the resident Atlantic Bluenose dolphins.

But the focus for golfers is Half Moon Golf Club, a lushly tropical Robert Trent Jones Sr. design opened in 1961 (and masterfully updated by Roger Rulewich in 2005) that flows seamlessly through gentle foothills just beyond the craggy coastline.

Entry to the Lime Jamaica Open is $650 for professionals; $500 for amateurs.

Exclusively online

Where to find Brian online

- **Online.** Follow Brian Kendall on twitter @cdngolftraveler and visit his website, canadiangolftraveller.com

Thomas Cook

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NEED A RIDE?
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Gruesomely delicious dip with black bugs is made for tombstone nibbling

Roasted eggplant and pepper dip with black "bugs" is a gruesomely delicious dip that can be topped off with "tombstone" toast slices. This baba-ganoush-inspired recipe reaches new levels of darkness with rich pomegranate molasses, balanced by heady garlic, cumin, coriander and bell pepper.

Garnished by insect-specks of black sesame or poppy seeds, it will have your guests crawling with excitement inspired from beyond the chip bowl.

Ingredients

- 1 large eggplant (1-1/2 lbs/750 g), pricked all over with a fork
- 1 sweet orange pepper
- 1 onion, quartered
- 4 large cloves garlic
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1-1/2 tsp each (7 ml) cumin seeds, coriander seeds
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 ml) nigella, black sesame or poppy seeds, divided
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 ml) salt
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 cup (250 ml) thick plain yogurt (Greek)
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 ml) pomegranate molasses
- Flatbread, toasted pita or sliced naan to serve

Roasted Eggplant and Pepper Dip with Black 'Bugs'

This recipe yields about 3-1/2 cups (875 ml) of dip. DAIRYGOODNESS.CA

1. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C).

2. Place eggplant directly on oven rack. Place whole pepper, onion and garlic cloves in a small roasting pan and toss olive oil. Roast vegetables for 45 minutes, tossing every 15 minutes, until vegetables are charred and eggplant is deflated (remove garlic and onions as they are roasted; they will be ready before pepper). Remove eggplant from oven with tongs, place in roasting pan with other vegetables, and allow to cool.

3. While vegetables are cooling, in a small, dry skillet, combine cumin, coriander and 1 tsp (5 ml) of nigella seeds. Cook over medium heat, shaking pan often for 2 minutes until fragrant and seeds begin to pop. Transfer to mortar and pestle (alternatively use spice grinder or place in a bowl and crush with the back of spoon) and grind until seeds are crushed, but not perfectly smooth.

4. When vegetables are cool enough to handle, cut eggplant and scoop out flesh onto a cutting board. Peel, core and de-seed pepper and place flesh on board with onion and garlic cloves. Roughly chop everything together and scoop into a serving bowl. Stir in toasted seeds, salt, lemon juice, yogurt and pomegranate molasses. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate for up to 2 days. Top with remaining nigella seeds arranging as bugs.

DAIRYGOODNESS.CA

Drink of the Week

Dark and Gloomy Blueberry Smoothie

This gloomy-coloured smoothie, perfect for a spooky Halloween breakfast, is packed with blueberries, bananas, milk and a handful of spinach. Halloween, after all, is all about disguises!

- 1-1/2 cups (375 ml) milk
- 1-1/2 cups (375 ml) loosely packed fresh baby spinach
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen blueberries
- 1 banana, peeled
- Pinch ground nutmeg
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) pure maple syrup, or to taste

In a blender, combine milk, spinach, blueberries, banana, nutmeg and maple syrup and blend until smooth. Add more maple syrup, if desired. Serve immediately.

DAIRYGOODNESS.CA

Is your desk reflecting your best?

Look around you. A chaotic cubicle could indicate to co-workers that professionalism isn't your priority

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

Whether we like it or not, our desks say a lot about us.

If you're entering the workforce for the first time as a student or new grad, it's easy to overlook the small details of your working life and focus solely on fitting in with your new office.

Ultimately, your personality, work ethic and professional skills will be what allow you to succeed in your career, but there is a lot to be said for how you handle your personal space. Unnecessary clutter, for example, can cause you to appear disheveled and make your co-workers take you less seriously.

Avoiding these common trends can ensure that if your desk absolutely insists on talking about you, it will only have good things to say.

Itching to leave

It's nice to personalize your space. In fact, doing so creates the idea that you are committed for the long haul, which an employer will look highly upon. That being said, the 800 photos of your Jamaican cruise and countdown calendar to your next vacation don't reflect well. They suggest that you'd rather be anywhere but here.

If you're going to let your space speak for you, make sure it's dishing out the compliments. ISTOCK

Tip: Limit the number of photos you post so you don't appear eager to run out the door.

No man's land

On the other end of the spectrum, your desk shouldn't be so empty that people forget someone actually sits there. Too many photos and memorabilia items send a negative message, but a complete lack of them sends a different yet equally off-putting thought. People might think you're reluctant to settle down with the company.

Tip: Nobody needs to know about your ongoing Pokemon obsession, but a family photo or two makes it seem like a human being actually works there.

Taking festive too far?

Every day is a holiday

- Halloween brings forth tiny carved pumpkins. Christmas finds your desk completely strung with lights, and Easter features a giant pile of decorated eggs. Although festive, this indicates you have nothing better to do at work, making your boss question both your priorities and commitment to your job.
- Tip: Bring in Halloween treats and hang up a stocking. End of story.

Childhood nostalgia

Small toys often occupy some desk spaces. Slinkies. Bobbleheads. Tiny race cars. These add a sense of fun to your desk and express your imagination and laid-back attitude. That being said, an overabundance of toys can also suggest a lack of focus.

Tip: Your desk should indicate that you're approachable, not five years old. Keep the slinky and throw out the Etch-a-Sketch.

Snacks and Starbucks

Depending on your work environment, eating at your desk may be common practice. However, if you're one of those people who likes to eat little portions throughout the day, make sure you don't let empty containers and wrappers pile up. This makes you appear messy and distracted (and as though you have nothing better to do than continually go for coffee breaks).

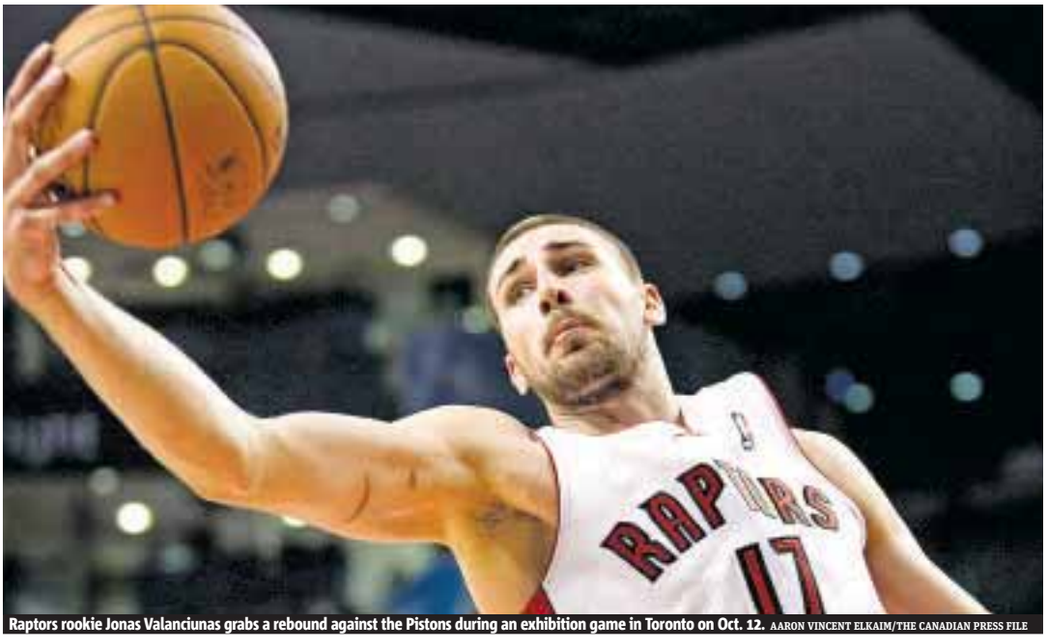
Tip: Use a reusable coffee mug to cut down on the number of Starbucks cups piling up by your monitor.

Post-it note central

If a slight breeze could potentially tear your organization apart, it's time to change your strategy. Writing a quick note to yourself might make you feel on top of things, but an abundance of them makes you appear disorganized to others.

Tip: A notebook (or better yet, an online calendar which can notify you before you're supposed to do something) is a much more efficient way to stay organized.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.



Raptors rookie Jonas Valanciunas grabs a rebound against the Pistons during an exhibition game in Toronto on Oct. 12. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Raps' Valanciunas not sweating NBA debut

NBA. Big Lithuanian rookie 'not feeling big pressure' ahead of clash with Pacers

Jonas Valanciunas couldn't have envisioned such an NBA debut when he was drafted nearly a year and a half ago.

Not only will he start in the Raptors' season opener Wednesday, matching up against an NBA all-star, the Lithuanian centre is being touted as the future of the franchise for a team aching to get back to the playoffs for the first time in five years.

That's a lot sitting on the shoulders of a 20-year-old — but Valanciunas sounds up to the task.

Quoted

"The fans of Toronto will love him just because he hits first and asks questions later. Maybe too much so."

Raptors head coach Dwane Casey on Jonas Valanciunas

"I'm not feeling big pressure," he said in his thick Lithuanian accent. "I feel small pressure because we need to win, because everybody is expecting us to win now because no hockey, everybody is going to be concentrating on basketball.

"But it's just basketball. You have to step on the court and do your things. If you're going to think about pressure, or what the guys (are) talking about you, it's not going to be good."

Valanciunas will battle 2012 all-star Roy Hibbert when the Raptors host the Indiana Pacers in their season-opener on Wednesday. The Toronto rookie will make his long-awaited debut after the Raptors selected him fifth overall in the 2011 draft but left him in Lithuania for another season of development.

Raptors coach Dwane Casey admitted he's nervous for his young player.

"I want Jonas to do well, I want him to perform well, and he's going against an experienced guy who knows all the tricks," Casey said after Tuesday's practice at the Air Canada Centre. "It's experience against inexperience, but this is the only way this young man is going to learn. Throw him out there in the fire, let him make his mistakes, and learn from them."

Valanciunas is one of three new starters for Toronto — the others are Kyle Lowry and Landry Fields. Valanciunas earned his spot with strong play in the pre-season, making five starts and averaging 8.3 points and 6.8 rebounds.

"I was not expecting to be the coach's starting centre, I expected just 10 minutes, and he's giving me a lot, so I feel really great," Valanciunas said. "I feel support from the coach, from the players. It's amazing.

"I think this is the best spot for me to play basketball."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Leyland to return to Tigers on one-year deal

Jim Leyland insisted throughout the latter part of the season that there would be a time and a place to discuss his managing future.

That moment came Tuesday — when the Detroit Tigers announced Leyland would be back in 2013 with a one-year contract extension.

"I really don't know why this is such a shock to everybody, because we told everybody that we weren't going to talk about this until after the season," Leyland said. "It's not even 48 hours and it's done. I think it was pretty much exactly like we had planned it."

The Tigers and their manager quickly ended any remaining speculation about his status, just two days after Detroit was swept by the San Francisco Giants in the World Series. Leyland was managing on a one-year deal this year as well.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Romero's rough season ends with elbow surgery

As Ricky Romero struggled through his disastrous 2012 season, it was often speculated he must have been hurt. Now we know he was.

The Blue Jays' 27-year-old left-hander had arthroscopic surgery two weeks ago to "clean up" scar tissue that had built up in his left elbow, he and the club announced Tuesday.

Romero admitted he pitched through soreness on the outside of his elbow through most of the season, but said he wasn't sure if it caused his poor performance. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA. Irving leads path in Cavs' opening-night win

Kyrie Irving scored 29 points, Anderson Varejao had a career-high 23 rebounds and the Cleveland Cavaliers opened the season with a 94-84 victory over the short-handed Washington Wizards on Tuesday night in the first game on the NBA schedule.

Rookie Dion Waiters added 17 points for the Cavs, who led by 16 in the third quarter but needed big plays from Irving and Varejao in the final minutes to hold off the Wizards.

Varejao had a career-high nine assists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cavaliers point guard Kyrie Irving makes a pass on Tuesday in Cleveland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Knicks' Stoudemire's season sidetracked by injury already

Amare Stoudemire could be sidelined for two months, the second straight season the New York Knicks forward will miss significant time because of injury.

The Knicks said Tuesday that Stoudemire would have left knee surgery and could be out six to eight weeks, more than twice as long as originally estimated when he was hurt during the pre-season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey. Simmonds the target of racism once again in Czech league

The Czech Republic's ice hockey federation says it has fined a club after its fans aimed racist chants toward Philadelphia Flyers winger Wayne Simmonds, who is playing in the top Czech league during the NHL lockout.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the federation said the Chomutov Pirates were fined 30,000 koruna ($1,554) by its disciplinary committee for the chants directed toward Simmonds, who currently plays for the Liberec White Tigers.

The incident took place during Sunday's game between the Pirates and the Tigers.

Wayne Simmonds GETTY IMAGES FILE

Chomutov has apologized to Simmonds and said the club would take measures to prevent such abuse in the future. Last year, a banana was thrown at Simmonds from the stands during an NHL pre-season game in London, Ont. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lockout

Players get escrow before missing another pay period

Locked-out NHL players had the pain of missing their first full pay period offset Tuesday when they received last season's escrow cheque.

Players were returned 7.98 per cent of what they earned last year, plus interest, one day before their second paycheque of the 2012-13 season would have been due, according to a spokesman for the NHL Players' Association

The escrow payments amount to about $80,000 for every million dollars a player earned — before deductions. For example, New York Rangers forward Brad Richards grossed approximately $960,000 after being the league's highest-paid player last season.

Under the terms of the expired collective bargaining agreement, NHL players had a portion of their salaries deducted throughout the season and placed into an escrow account.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Part-time goalie working OT for locked-out players

Hockey. 45-year-old doing his part in keeping pros sharp

The first time real-estate agent and part-time goalie Greg Partchenko walked into a dressing room filled with NHLers, you could hear a puck drop.

"The first day, I walk in and I hear all the guys talking away and it goes silent," says Partchenko. "You can hear the guys thinking, 'Who's this guy?'

"I just said, 'Hi.'"

Big, burly and in his mid-40s, Partchenko put on his equipment, went out on the ice and started what amounts to a part-time hobby as a goalie for NHL stars.

"The next day, Matt Stajan came to me and said, 'When we first looked at you we said, who the heck is this guy? When you got out there it was like, this guy can stop pucks.'"

That was a couple of years ago when Partchenko, 45, got a call from a mutual friend of Matt Nichol, the former Leaf trainer who runs a camp for pros in the summer. Like shinny players everywhere, they needed a goalie.

"(On Friday), we didn't have a goalie. It's not as fun," says Leafs forward Matthew Lombardi. "You need a goalie. It makes it better for us."

Now that the lockout has sidelined NHLers everywhere, Partchenko's regular two-week gig in August has stretched out a couple of months. He's gotten to know the likes of Phil Kessel, Mike Cammalleri and Dion Phaneuf.

"You're thinking, 'Are these guys going to take it easy on me, are they going to go hard? If I feel like I'm having a bad day, do these guys want me to come back? Am I putting up enough competition for them?'" wonders Partchenko. "At the end of the day, they go, 'Yep, you're doing all right.'"

It's been mostly Maple Leafs and Toronto residents like Cammalleri and Tomas Kaberle working out at the local rink — they're not at the Maple Leafs-operated MasterCard Centre anymore.

There's a bit of a rotation among the goalies working out at the Toronto camp. Team Canada women's national goalie Christina Kessler has been coming out lately, as well as some midget-aged goalies.

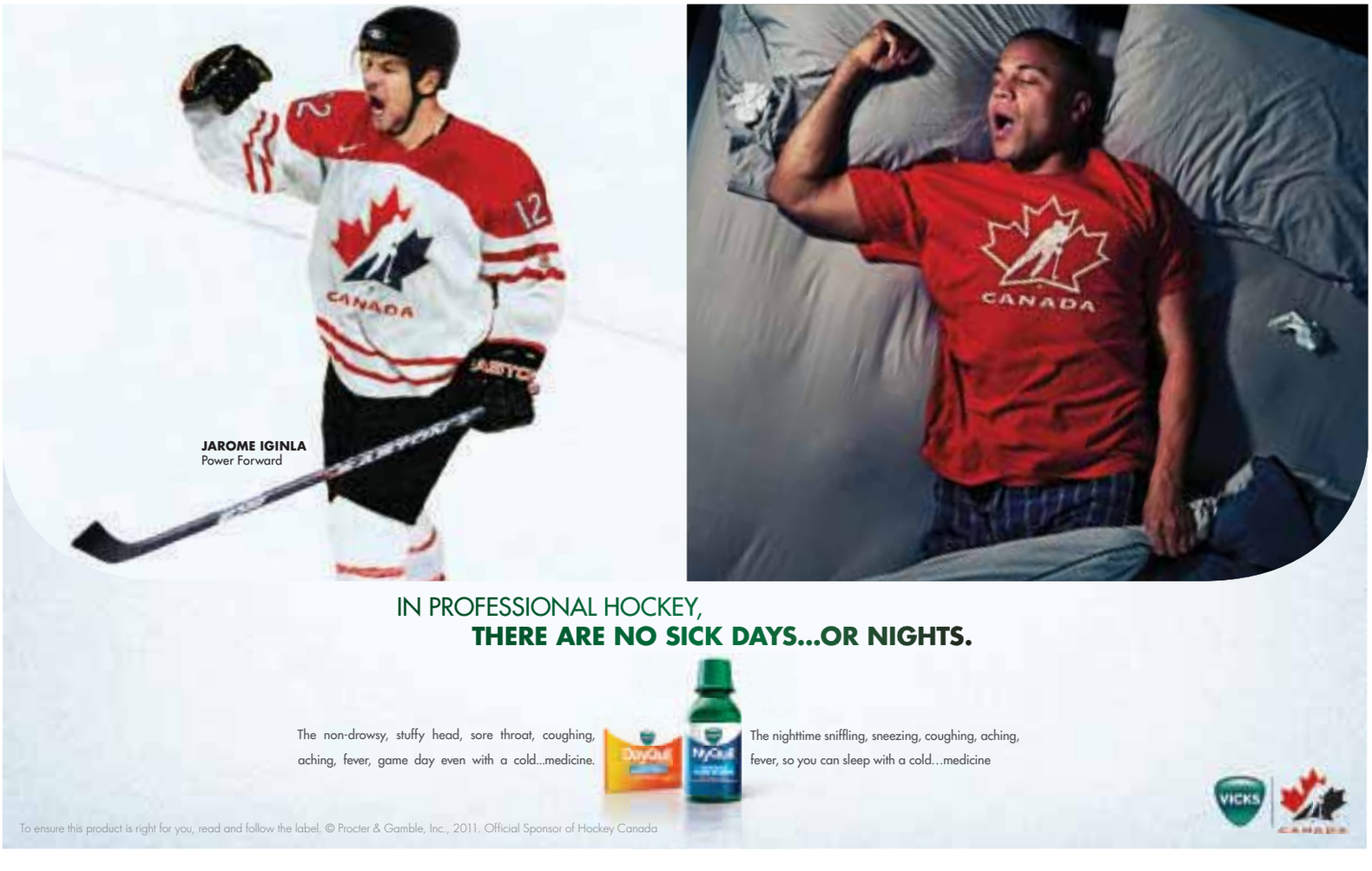
Andrew Cipollone, 16, of the AAA North York Rangers, was on the ice on Monday — skipping school in the process — for his first day with the pros. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"There's 60 in the league and so many are in Europe. There's just not that many around."

Toronto Maple Leaf Phil Kessel on the challenge of finding a goaltender for training sessions

Goalie Greg Partchenko with new Maple Leafs centre Jay McClement during a scrimmage with locked-out NHL players in Toronto on Tuesday.
ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Toronto firm Baka Communications' huge grid of solar panels above their new-age filling station is one of the biggest in North America. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sing it – I'm driving on sunshine!

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Being the centre of our part of the universe, the sun has always maintained a pretty big ego. But we must let that slide, because it's always been quite generous about sharing its energy.

Flora and fauna have long ago figured out how to directly use the sun's energy. Cars, not so much. Solar-powered cars are coming, but they're still science experiments.

There has always been the indirect way — grabbing solar-generated electricity to throw on the grid, and then letting electric cars draw power from that grid.

It's a strategy that is gaining more and more traction these days, due to clean energy issues and the subsequent and rising popularity of the modern electrical-driven automobile.

A big case in point is the structure that suddenly appeared last week on the premises of Baka Communications. The Toronto-firm is billing it as the largest solar charging station in Canada that is not run by a government or utility-company entity. It's also among the largest in North America.

"We also have the largest private fleet of Chevrolet Volts in Canada," says Baka's president, John Marion. At the station's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 23, eight of the Volts were simultaneously charged, showing off the eight available charging stations, positioned under the carport's massive 20-kilowatt solar-panel roof.

Marion initiated the project after installing some solar panels at his house. It got him thinking about what he could do in the same green vein at the office.

"Next year, we're scheduled to do our rooftop project, an 80-kilowatt system," adds Marion. "When you combine them, they'll be able to provide 50 per cent of our total electrical needs at this location, including the full charging of all nine cars for 20-kilowatt-per-year driving."

The electric fleet and the two big solar panels will set the company back about $1 million dollars. Marion obviously feels the investment is justified.

"At the end of the day, I want to promote green … When we're bidding for work, clients want to know how green you are. We do a lot of green things, like recycling and conservation. Those are the norms. But nobody can come close to what we're doing. At the same time, it's got to be in you. It's in me."

It's in Marion so much he wants to make Baka an "evangelist for the environmental movement." In this regard, Baka is blessed by its location adjacent to the much-travelled 427 Highway — about 275,000 vehicles a day will pass by the firm's electric carport.

"We hope a lot of people will see it, to ultimately create discussion and awareness that solar powered charging stations are actually here. We also hope that Saas' phone rings off the hook, because we should have more of these."

The Saas in question is Saas Perez of Renewz Sustainable Solutions, which built and created Baka's system. Perez says the station is the first in North America to be based on a combination of Italian structural technology and North American electrical technology.

The company will be introducing a home version in 2013. Also unique will be the ability to reserve a charging station via a mobile device, but only when Baka is ready to give public access to these charging stations.

How will Baka charge public users for charging? Marion said they wouldn't have to pay. Why no payment I can't help but ask…

"Because it's free," says Marion, pointing to the sky.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Someone is lying to you. Someone believes you are easy to fool. It's not true, is it? The planets indicate you need to keep your wits about you today. If you are careless, it could cost you more than just money.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Do you deal with a problem in a purely logical manner or do you allow your instincts to guide you? The best way is to combine the two, to find a happy medium. Use both sides of your brain today.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will hear something today you don't want to know about, but you can't escape the facts. Like it or not, changes have to be made. The only question is: Will you make them or will you leave it to others?

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You think too much. The more you dwell on a problem today, the more of a problem it will become. Divert your mind in a more positive direction and, who knows, maybe the problem will resolve itself.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Try something different today, something you would not usually dare to attempt. Yes, it may go wrong but, more likely, it will go right and you will impress a lot of people. You may even impress yourself.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will come under pressure from someone who thinks they have the right to tell you what to do. They don't, and the sooner you let them know that the sooner you will be rid of their annoying presence.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You like to take your time when making a decision but that luxury is not available to you at the moment. Listen to what your inner voice tells you and act on it immediately. That means today, not tomorrow!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't waste your time and energy on things of no importance. If you allow yourself to be sidetracked, it could take quite a while before you are able to get back on course. Focus only on what is important to you.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stand up for yourself. Refuse to do anything that does not feel right. Others will try to convince you that they know best but if your instincts tell you otherwise, you would be a fool not to listen.

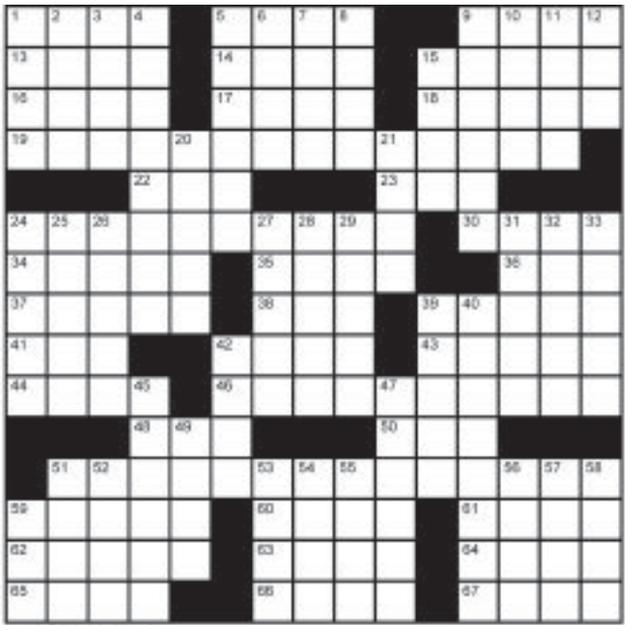
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Life is too short to waste time wondering if other people approve of your actions. For too long, you have hesitated because you were not sure you were doing the right thing. Ultimately, there is no right thing. Just act.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A friend or work colleague will try to drag you into a dispute that really has nothing to do with you and if you are smart, you will refuse to get involved. You are not your brother's keeper, nor anyone else's.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You know what you want and you know where to get it but certain people don't want you to have it. Can they stop you? Only if you let them — so don't let them. SALLY BROMPTON

Cities

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across

1. _: ___.: state west of Minnesota (2 wds.)
5. Chilled, as tea
9. Big smile
13. Trumpet or bugle
14. Connecting point
15. Angered
16. "Moi aussi" (2 wds. minus one O)
17. "Sad to say..."
18. Fortune teller's deck
19. BC city on north bank of the Fraser, in same metro area as 51-Across (2 wds.)
22. Copy
23. "Yessir"
24. Canada's largest province's capital (2 wds.)
30. MDs
34. Store event (2 wds)
35. Big fusses
36. Doubled, a dance
37. Heads: Fr.
38. Life story, for short
39. Internal-combustion engine
41. "Raggedy" doll
42. Wipe (up)
43. Go out with ___: end noticeably (2 wds.)
44. Aussie hoppers, familiarly
46. Largest southern Alberta city
48. Can. neighbor
50. Perform
51. Suburb of BC's largest city, directly across Burrard Inlet from that city, and part of its metro area (2 wds.)
59. "Tell ___ I Love Her": 1960 teenage tragedy hit
60. *Return of the Jedi* forest dweller
61. Je t'___: "I love you" (Fr.)
62. Aquatic mammal
63. *Scream* star Campbell
64. Mounties, briefly
65. Like a busybody
66. Pre-1917 Russian leader
67. "For" votes

Down

1. Ankle-to-knee bone
2. Be overly fond
3. "Pretty maids in ___" (2 wds.)
4. Can be understood
5. "Right away!" (3 wds.)
6. Equine youngster
7. Red-wrapped cheese
8. ___ Arnaz: Lucille Ball's husband
9. Prepared parmesan
10. Hard-to-find
11. "Do ___ else!": parent's threat (2 wds.)
12. Aerialist's "insurance"
15. Teeny
20. Fencing swords
21. Negative votes
24. Abu Dhabi neighbour whose capital is Doha
25. "We ___ MSG": restaurant claim (2 wds.)
26. "Jack Sprat could ___ fat ..." (2 wds.)
27. Broadcast alternative
28. Numskull
29. Canine or bicuspid
31. Eightsome
32. Cheech's partner
33. Beetle Bailey's nemesis
39. Explorer ___ Polo
40. Newspaper item recording a death
42. Yawn-inducing
45. BC's second-largest city, in the same metro area as 51-Across
47. Broadway "angel"
49. Our sun, say
51. Canada joined this mutual defense org. in 1949
52. Ins and ___
53. Air passageway
54. Stuns
55. ___ Scotia
56. "Miami ___" : Don Johnson show or movie based on it
57. Actress Watson of Harry Potter movies
58. Salesmen, for short
59. Horror film star Chaney

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

3					8		9	
			3	7			2	
	1		2					7
	6	4		5				
2			8		1			4
				6		9	5	
1					7		3	
	9			4	6			
	2		9					1

Yesterday's Sudoku

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